

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03

L-03 EA-06 IO-10 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /058 W

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R 052156Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9037

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMCONSUL BELIZE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EWWT ETRD CO

SUBJ: COLOMBIAN SHIPPING IN CARIBBEAN VERSUS NAMUCAR

1. FOL ARE EXCERPTS FROM A STATEMENT MADE THIS WEEK BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER JORGE RAMIREZ OCAMPO: "I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS WEEK AN AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED BETWEEN THE FLOTA MERCANTE GRANCOLOMBIANA AND JAPAN LINES BY WHICH THE FMG WILL ACQUIRE THE USE OF SIX ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF SHIPS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SERVING THE MAJORITY OF THE PORTS OF THE CARIBBEAN, SAILING FROM CARTAGENA AND BARRANQUILLA, WITH FREQUENCIES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN DAYS. WE FEEL THAT THIS TYPE OF SHIP IS

THE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR SERVICE TO THIS AREA, GIVEN ITS GREAT FLEXIBILITY AND SPEED IN LOADING AND UNLOADING CARGO.

AS REGARDS NAMUCAR, THE GOC HAS FOLLOWED THE SAN JOSE NEGOTIATIONS WITH INTEREST AND HAS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN ALL PHASES OF THEM. WE PROPOSE TO MAKE THE CORRESPONDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED IN THE CHARTER SIGNED IN SAN JOSE LAST WEEK, I.E., IN SIX WEEKS.

NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE NOT LIMITED OUR ACTIVITIES TO COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS OF THE REGION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS ENTERPRISE (NAMUCAR), BUT RATHER WE HAVE TAKEN THE NECESSARY STEPS SO THAT COLOMBIA WILL HAVE A RATIONAL SYSTEM OF TRANSPORT WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND HALF OF 1975."

2. COMMENT: WHILE THE LACK OF REGULAR SHIPPING SERVICE BETWEEN COLOMBIAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN/CARIBBEAN PORTS IS FREQUENTLY CITED AS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO THE EXPANSION OF COLOMBIAN EXPORTS TO THIS AREA, IT IS SURPRISING THAT THE GOC HAS TAKEN STEPS TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION ON ITS OWN COINCIDENTAL WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NAMUCAR. THE ABSENCE OF REGULAR COLOMBIAN-CARIBBEAN SHIPPING SERVICE WAS CITED BY GOC OFFICIALS AS THE PRINCIPAL JUSTIFICATION FOR COLOMBIA'S INTEREST IN JOINING NAMUCAR, AND IT WOULD APPEAR NOW THAT THIS JUSTIFICATION NO LONGER EXISTS. THIS ACTION MAY BELIE THE PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM OF THE GOC REGARDING NAMUCAR, AND REFLECT THE DOUBTS OF MANY SHIPPING PEOPLE HERE ABOUT ITS FUTURE. SEVERAL GOC OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE SHIPPING REPS HAVE INFORMALLY EXPRESSED DOUBTS TO EMB OFFICIALS ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF NAMUCAR AND ABOUT THE ABILITY OF SO MANY NATIONS TO COOPERATE IN SUCH A VENTURE IN VIEW OF THEIR NATIONAL AND SOMETIMES CONFLICTING INTERESTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, CARGO, AGREEMENTS, STEAMSHIP LINES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA05200
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750201-1251
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750675/aaaacqnf.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COLOMBIAN SHIPPING IN CARIBBEAN VERSUS NAMUCAR
TAGS: EWWT, ETRD, CO, XK, NAMUCAR, FLOTA MERCANTE GRANCOLOMBIANA, JAPAN LINES, (RAMIREZ OCAMPO, JORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006